



Message To The People

Mitakuye Oyasin

Mitakuyapi!

I wanted to take a moment to inform you of recent developments concerning Indian Affairs which have taken place in Washington, DC. As you know, the United States Congress and the administration have an obligation to work with the tribes throughout the United States. I would like to do my part to keep tribal leaders and community professionals informed regarding legislative efforts I am undertaking, both in South Dakota and across the nation. It is my hope that together we can work to provide our future generations with the best resources available to succeed, as well as economic development tools that will help them become more prosperous.

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Senator Johnson Announces Indian Affairs Committee Assignment

I am pleased to announce that I have become the newest member of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee. I have wanted to be a member of the committee since my election to the Senate in 1996. The ratio of Democrats and Republicans on the committee allowed for an additional Democratic seat, and I was selected for that position. Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO) serves as Chairman of the committee, and Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI) serves as Ranking Member. I have worked closely with these gentlemen for many years, and they have both allowed me to work with the committee to ensure the voices of Native Americans in South Dakota were heard during committee deliberations. I am pleased to be joining the Indian Affairs Committee, and I plan to be an active member of this committee throughout the 107th Congress.

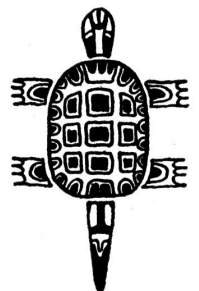
Senator Johnson Announces Appropriations Committee Assignment

I was also pleased to be selected for one of the two open Democratic seats on the prestigious Senate Appropriations Committee. All legislation to fund activities of federal agencies and programs falls under the jurisdiction of the Senate Appropriations Committee. This assignment will enable me to be an aggressive advocate for those projects, which are most important to our state.

School Construction Remains A High Priority For Senator Johnson

Already this Congress, I have reintroduced my legislation to increase school construction funding for Bureau of Indian Affairs schools. This measure, known as the Indian School Construction Act (S. 243), would allow tribes to issue bonds, thereby attracting private investment. Tax credits could be used to repay the principal amount owed.

This initiative was started during the 104th Congress, while I was still a member of the House of Representatives. Much ground was gained during the 106th Congress, as this measure was favorably passed out of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, and placed before the



full Senate. This legislation is intended to amplify the money available for schools and in no way replaces or reduces funding that is otherwise available. Unfortunately, time ran out before this measure could be passed by the Senate or the House, but I will continue working to advance this important legislation during the 107th Congress.

I am pleased that Senators Bingaman, Daschle, Campbell, Inouye, Cochran, Reid, Akaka, and Baucus have again joined me as cosponsors of this measure. Additionally, Rep. Dale Kildee (D-MI) is introducing a companion measure in the House of Representatives. The bipartisan support of this initiative is a welcome reflection of the kind of support Indian Affairs in general has enjoyed in recent history.

National Crazy Horse Day

I recently introduced legislation that would designate September 6, 2001 as "National Crazy Horse Day." This day, which will mark the 124th anniversary of the death of this great leader, will help to remind Americans of this warrior's military genius, as well as his vision. Today, the battle strategies employed by Crazy Horse are studied by cadets at the prestigious United States Military Academy at West Point; unfortunately, many of the principles for which he was fighting have yet to be realized. I am hoping that a national day of recognition will help to remind Americans of his leadership and wisdom, but also of the ideals for which Crazy Horse fought.

For updates regarding these issues, as well as other matters, I would encourage you to visit my website at <http://johnson.senate.gov>. Up-to-date information regarding Congress and the administration are available on my website, as well as links to upcoming hearings and other matters pending in the Senate Indian Affairs Committee.

If you have further questions or need additional information, Amy C. Sagalkin in my Washington office and Aubrie James in my Rapid City office deal directly with issues involving tribes or tribal members. Of course, you can contact me through any of my offices, or by writing or e-mailing me directly in Washington, DC.

Pilamiyelo!

Tim Johnson
United States Senator